

Neighborhood Planning Council – 4
January 20, 2010
Maple United Methodist Church
342 Capital Ave., NE

Minutes

Attendees:

NPC 4 Members and Residents: Dave Nielsen, Jeremy Andrews, Jana Anderson, James Berry, Mary Conklin, John Hennink, Mark Jones, Ed Lawrence, Dave Salerno, E. Helen VanValkenburg, John Walton, George Wilson

Guests: Eric Campbell and Laura Otte

Chair Dave Nielsen called meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Upon Motion made and supported by Ed Lawrence and Jeremy Andrews the October 21, 2009, meeting minutes were approved.

Program: Dave Nielson introduced Laura Otte of the Substance Abuse Council. Laura discussed Underage Drinking Prevention Initiative. The initiative includes a survey process to identify the actual issues in the community and will be able to identify concerns for different areas of the city. Contact the SAC for surveys.

Police report: No officer present. Police report was not available for the meeting. Dave reminded the NPC that the information is always available on line at the city website.

Code compliance: Eric Campbell distributed the code report. A question was asked about 101 Orchard Ave. and it's current use and compliance with single family vs multi-family Eric reported that it is being reviewed by the City Attorney.

Dave updated the NPC of the progress that Tim Mix of Mix Hardware is having purchasing the buildings next door to the store for demolition. The process has been slowed due to other property owners and insurance companies.

If there is an abandoned car in the area procedure is to call the city and report it. The car will be ticketed and towed but it may take a couple of reminder calls!

The house at the corner of Sherman and McKinley will be going to court to resolve the zoning issue of the apparent business being run from the premises.

Dave brought to the attention of the NPC the Zoning Board of Appeal issue regarding 68 Emmett St.'s petition to be rezoned multi-family. Upon motion and support by Mark Jones and Jeremy Andrews, the NPC approved that Dave Nielson compose a letter to the Zoning Board of Appeals expressing the NPC's desire to have the property remain zoned as single family (R1) The next meeting will be March 9, 2010 at 4:00pm.

City Commission Report: Commissioner Laurie Sullivan was not at the meeting however submitted a report via email which was forwarded to members on the email list. A reminder was stated to leave your email address on the sign in sheet or to see Jana Anderson so members and residents can receive reports digitally.

Beautiful Battle Creek: There was a mix-up at the City and the list submitted of Beautiful Battle Creek nominations was misplaced so new nominations are needed.

Community Outreach: No report this month.

Neighborhood Association updates: Merritt Commons has reconstituted and Jeremy Andrews announced that 104 Calhoun St. will be used for organizations like Sprout Urban Gardening, the Tool Library and for neighborhood meeting space and a police substation.

Old Business:

Y-Center: The City took an action on the Y-Center issue. Officially the City approved the City Manager to continue negotiations with Y-Center and Parks and Recreation/ Full Blast. The NPC is concerned about the impact to the area regarding the Y-Center building and has dedicated the program for the February meeting to discuss the issue and figure out the NPC's next steps.

Membership Update: Mark Jones and Dave Salerno still are not receiving mail or email. Jana will contact Rebecca at Neighborhood Services and verify membership.

Downtown Renovation: Three new designs for the downtown area (Michigan Ave.) were presented at a community forum on January 14th. After assessing the comments by the community another forum will be held to show the revised plans.

New Business:

NPC Officer Election: Per the September meeting motion to hold elections in November and the subsequent cancellations of November and December meetings the NPC officer elections were held. Jeremy Andrews decided not to run for another term, so Chair Dave Nielsen turned the meeting and the election over to Jeremy.

Upon Motion and support by George Wilson and Mark Jones, NPC4 elected for Secretary, Jana Anderson. Upon Motion and support by John Hennink and George Wilson, NPC4 elected for Vice Chair, Mark Jones. Upon Motion and support by George Wilson and Helen VanValkenburg, NPC4 elected for Chair, David Nielsen.

After the elections were completed the meeting was returned to Chair Dave Nielsen.

Comments:

Jeremy announced that the Mustache Society will be hosting the FebruHairy Festivus on February 6th at 11:00am at Leila Arboretum.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

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